

ORE THE DIGGER NEWSPAPER

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Advancing oil and gas through “squishy” sounds

Tim Weilert
Content Manager

“This is my fourth lecture in 30 hours,” said Dr. Peter M. Duncan as he spoke on campus last week during a lecture hosted by the Society of Exploration Geophysicists (SEG). Duncan, who earned a Ph.D. in Geophysics from the University of Toronto, once acted as the President of the SEG, and came to Mines as part of the SEG’s distinguished lecture tour. He came to speak about the use of passive seismic technology as it relates to the oil and gas industry.

For the non-geophysicist reader, passive seismic technology is simply listening to low-frequency movements and seismic events (such as earth quakes) via geophones and other sensors. The data collected from passive seismic can then be used to determine a plethora of geological features, such as underground oil sources and rock structures. It is different than active seismic, a process which involves invasive wave-production and can lead to environmental concerns and problems. “Passive seismic is to conventional seismic what a stethoscope is to an ultrasound,” said Duncan, “We listen to all the “squishy” sounds that are emitted while we’re interacting with a reservoir. We correlate those sounds to the engineering activity and try to

make inferences as to how we can make that activity better.”

When Dr. Duncan decided to start his own passive seismic company, Micro Seismic Inc., he researched what little had been done in the field. As he read journals from the SEG and others in the industry, he found an interesting editorial from over a decade ago. “In this case, a geophysicist named Peter Edwards, who worked at Exxon, had written in and expressed an opinion that geophysicists were missing the opportunity to apply some of the passive seismic technologies to oil and gas exploration,” said Duncan, “The editors of the journal in 1992 said Edwards was full of bunk. They believed there was no hope for passive seismic applications for the oil and gas business. We are very conservative and take a long time to accept new technologies.”

A brief history of passive seismic applications followed. One example was particularly apt and had a Colorado connection: Rocky Flats. “In April of 1962, they drilled a well and began to pump millions of barrels of waste water,” said Duncan, “Within a very short time, the area began to experience earthquakes. Immediately, the USGS and Chevron began

a project where they pumped into an oil field and measured the occurrence of earth quakes in relation to their pumping.” This experiment, and similar endeavors, led to a few patents relating to passive seismic data collection and procedures. However, nothing happened in the oil industry for nearly 20 years.

Dr. Duncan presented several other case studies relating passive seismic technology to oil fields. He explored the current state of the technology and future challenges. His main focus was that passive

seismic needs to be better integrated into the engineering world, further improving the interpretation of the raw data

We listen to all the
“squishy” sounds that are
emitted.

provided. Also, he mentioned that this data could be used for a variety of applications within the oil and gas industry. Finding missed opportunities and untapped reserves, estimating permeability, and determining faulting direction were all areas that could be improved via passive seismic.

Dr. Duncan challenged the professors and students present as he closed. “The textbook on interpreting the ‘squishy’ sounds we’re hearing with this stethoscope hasn’t been written yet, that’s up to you guys.”

The keys to entrepreneurship

Jake Rezac
Content Manager

“To be an entrepreneur, you must be willing to take on a new venture and accept full responsibility for the outcome,” JP O’Brien said last Tuesday to a room full of Colorado School of Mines’ (CSM) students and faculty, as well as people from the community. “I’ve been successful because my risk-taking has been based on knowledge.” O’Brien is the Executive in Residence in the Division of Economics and Business at CSM and the CEO of SageFire, Inc., which, according to their website, “Provides financial management solutions and services to help entrepreneurs and small business owners get the most from their businesses.” His lecture, called “The Spirit of Entrepreneurship,” focused on what it means to be an entrepreneur, as well as the common mistakes which go along with entrepreneurship, and how to avoid them.

He began his lecture, to which about fifty people eagerly listened, asking what they thought it meant to be entrepreneur. Answers ranged from “Somebody that starts something on their own” to “Someone who is self-employed.” O’Brien commented that it comes from a French word which means “To undertake.” To undertake a venture, O’Brien intoned, as well as to undertake risk. According to O’Brien, the best question he has asked his clients has been “What are we going to undertake together?”

He continued, presenting the listeners with a list of eleven traits, and asked them to rate each trait as being positive or negative for entrepreneurship. These traits ranged from being motivated to achieve to being a compulsive gambler. He also asked them to rate themselves on each of these traits.

Then, the group went over their thoughts on the traits. Some of his responses were surprising, challenging the commonly thought of traits of entrepreneurs. For example, O’Brien gave the opinion that high risk taking was a negative trait. He said that “Undertaking certain responsibility for an outcome” was important, but taking too high of risks was bad. On this topic, he also said that

“The problem is the person won’t give up – a person thinks they’ll change things by doing the same thing in the same way.” Later in his talk, he returned to the subject of risk taking. “You need to have, as an entrepreneur... high risk tolerance.”

After discussing the traits of entrepreneurs, O’Brien talked about his factors of success. These include “Vision, passion, leadership, innovation, communication and resilience.” He focused particularly on passion, “I like to look to people who like to set goals and have passion behind them.”

These factors of success having been discussed, O’Brien moved on to the pitfalls which are common among entrepreneurial ventures. Most important among these is what O’Brien called “The valley of despair.” This is the time in a venture when revenue of a company is well below what the entrepreneurs are expecting – it’s an occurrence which happens to all ventures, according to O’Brien. However, given enough time and effort, a good venture will come out of the rut. “This feeling [associated with the valley of despair] affects you so deeply at your core... I can’t say anything but to tell you it’s okay... you need to recognize when you’re in the valley of despair, and it’s not the end of the world.”

O’Brien ended his lecture by discussing different types

of entrepreneurs. These include entrepreneurs, who measure success in terms of revenue; intrapreneurs, who measure success on

organizational change and social entrepreneurs, who measure their success in terms of social change. In regards to the latter, O’Brien said, “I think it’s very difficult for a company that has a requirement to make money for its investors to make social change.”

To sum up, he mentioned that someone once asked him, “Do you see the world simply as opportunity after opportunity?” This, along with the factors of success he mentioned, which he thinks he possesses, makes him a good entrepreneur – someone who has started three of his own businesses. He asked to listeners to try to think of the world this way, and in doing that, they might become entrepreneurs too.



A traditional form of Indian art, *rangoli*, at the Diwali celebration at CSM last Monday. For the story and more pictures, see www.oredigger.net.

BREE WALTMAN / OREDIGGER

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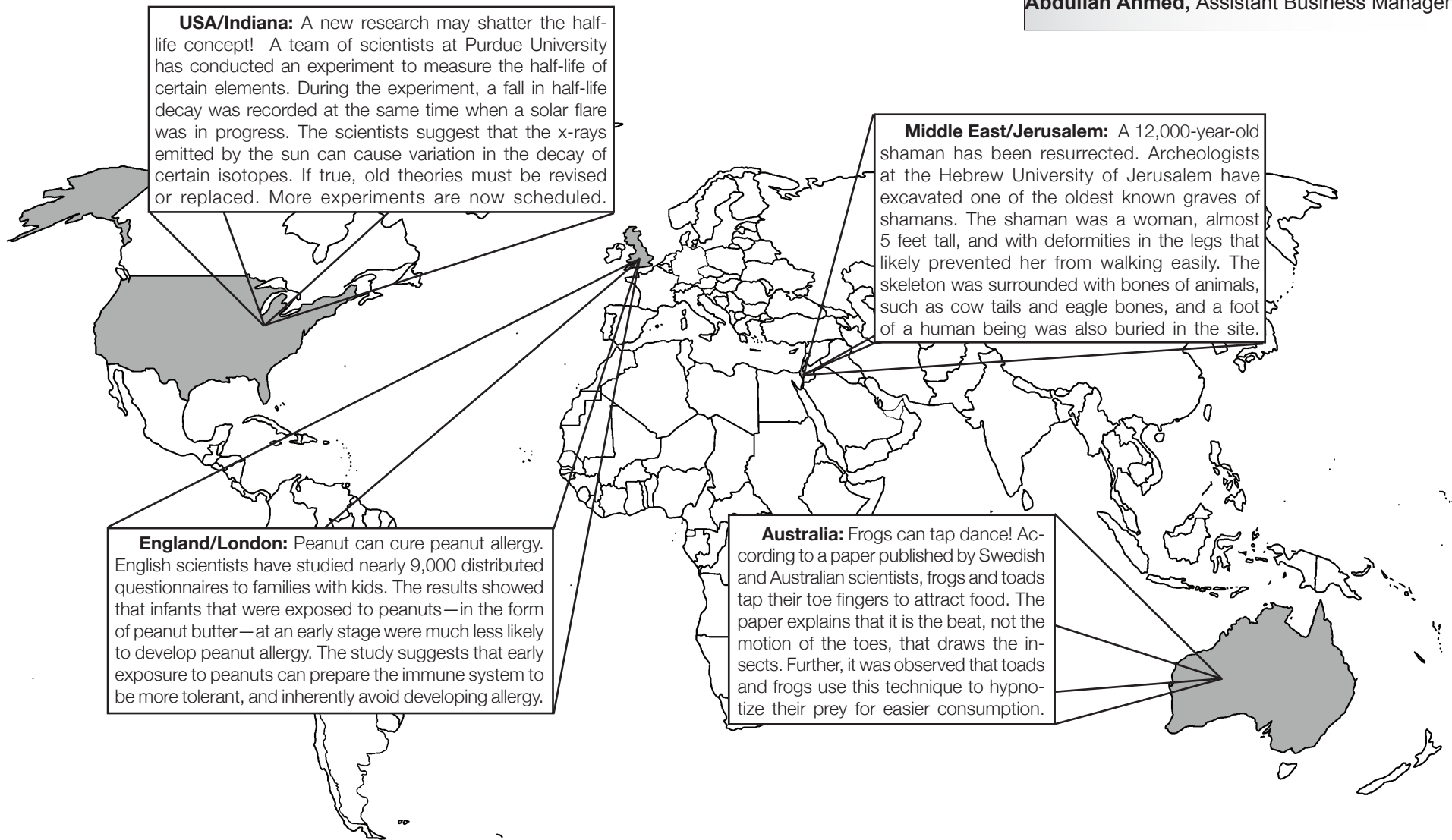
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Scientific discoveries this week

Abdullah Ahmed, Assistant Business Manager



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ASSOCIATED
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PRESS

Headlines from around the world

Emily Trudell, Staff Writer

Barack Obama was elected the next president of the United States of America after a landslide victory over rival John McCain.

Congress worked to pass its second stimulus package, promising at least **\$61 billion** toward improving the depressed economy.

A study done by the **Cancer Research Center** in Seattle, Washington, found that women with a history of migraines have a lower risk for developing breast cancer, especially types of cancer that are hormone related.

The Black Hills of South Dakota were pounded with four feet of **snow** and 50 mile per hour winds. The storm blocked highways and interstates, trapping motorists, and left thousands without power.

President-elect Barack Obama selected **Rahm Emanuel** as his White House Chief of Staff. Emanuel is a fellow Democrat from Illinois who was elected to the House in 2002.

The nation of **Venezuela** launched its first satellite into space from a launch pad in China. The telecommunications satellite is expected to be used for transmitting medical and education information, and will not be used for commercial needs.

Three arrests were made in the town of Villach, Austria, in relation to the theft of the **“Prince of Burma” ruby**, which is estimated to be worth over \$4.1 million. The gem was stolen in August from a German jewelry dealer.

Tropical storm **Paloma** intensified as it bombarded the Cayman Islands with rain, growing into a

category three hurricane with wind speeds of 115 miles per hour by Friday.

The collapse of the College La Promesse Evangelique, a school in the town of Petionville, **Haiti** injured at least 100 students between the ages of 10 and 20, and killed over 50. It was reported that the school collapsed due to the weak construction of the building.

The death toll from the North Ossetian **suicide bombing** in Vladikavkaz, Russia, was reported to be 12 people, in addition to over 40 injuries. The area has been char-

acterized by political turmoil and violence for years.

Secretary of State **Condoleezza Rice** conceded that a peace deal between Israel and Palestine is unlikely to occur by the end of this year. The White House has announced that peace in Israel is considered to be a long term goal.

A study conducted by the RAND Corporation showed that **teens**

who watch television shows containing sexual content are more likely to get **pregnant** or to impregnate a peer.

The Chinese production problem of **melamine** content in food products has spread to eggs. The dangerous chemical, which causes irritation to the skin and eyes, as well as renal failure, has also been found in baby formula and meat products.



Bringing diversity to Mines

Amanda Rock
Staff Writer

Are Newton's Laws the most important things for a physicist to know? According to Patricia Rankin, not at all. Rankin is the associate vice chancellor for faculty diversity and development at the University of Colorado at Boulder and a physicist herself. The question Rankin posed during her presentation to the Colorado School of Mines faculty was "Why does diversity matter, and how can we increase it?"

So why has the scientific workforce not diversified? Even after decades of feminism and women's rights the number of women in science and engineering fields is comparatively small to that of men. South Korea, for example, has one-sixth the population, but graduates the same number of women as the United States.

Traditional arguments for the lack of female presence in the sciences include such old reasoning as "If it ain't broke, don't fix it," as Rankin put it. The case states that physics and other science fields are doing just fine with the current

demographics, so why try to fix an already well-oiled machine?

But, Rankin said, "The argument that bringing women in is a bad thing doesn't really make sense." After all, the most innovative and productive environments are those with people from all different demographics and backgrounds. "If you have a team that thinks all the same way they are less likely to find errors in their designs," Rankin explained. A variety of opinions stimulates creative thinking.

"Another argument is that women just don't want to be scientists or engineers...it's a variant on the nature versus nurture argument," said Rankin, "But if you look at what men and women want in a career, there aren't any obvious differences."

A better reason for the lack of diversity is the perception of women and their performance as professionals. According to Rankin, "If a woman is successful, it is more likely to be attributed to luck rather than skill... but if she fails, it is attributed to lack of skill, but bad luck for a guy."

A study in Sweden showed that women had to achieve twice

as much as men to receive the same recognition. The bias in the selection process for jobs creates problems for women. "I think one of the hard things for us to accept... our selection process is not going to get us the best and the brightest," said Rankin.

Some new interview styles are designed to eliminate the bias that comes along with face-to-face interviews. These "Blind interviews" are sometimes used in musical auditions, where an interviewee will perform behind a curtain so the interviewer cannot determine race or gender. Studies on blind interviews reveal that about 50% of the selected applicants are women, whereas traditional interviews can result in male-female ratios of three to one.

So what is Rankin's advice for young women in science and engineering? "Women need to learn to network, think strategically and long-term and negotiate." Rankin also said to be assertive and take credit for your skills. "Our students will compete in an increasingly diverse world and need to work with people from a wide range of backgrounds."

Reflections on the scientific method

Sophie Hancock
Staff Writer

Strong, challenging debate and provocative geological questioning were hallmarks of Professor Warren Hamilton's recent CSM campus lecture. Professor Hamilton is a nationally prominent scientist and Distinguished Senior Scientist for the Department of Geophysics at the Colorado School of Mines (CSM), and well known for his controversial view of plate tectonics. Hamilton presented theories on the geodynamics of early earth and the timing of the onset of modern plate tectonics that are strikingly different to many current Precambrian (>545 million years ago or Ma) processes.

As part of the Van Tuyl series, Hamilton posed a series of direct statements intended to challenge aspects of recent tectonic research, particularly that focusing on understanding the evolution of the Earth's mantle and internal structure during early parts of its history. The central question of the talk, "When did Plate Tectonics begin?" has far-reaching geological implications and has been investigated intensively, particularly in recent years. As a measure of its significance, in 2006, the Geological Society of America dedicated their Penrose Conference to the subject, under this precise title question.

Hamilton himself billed the lecture as "180 degrees from current thinking." His questioning presentation style throughout implied a keen sense of his focus on needing to dig down to the underlying assumptions when utilizing and building on other's work. To some, these challenges will be appreciated as a salient reminder of the need to keep scientists "honest" in their objectivity when appraising data, especially when drawing on the work from other disciplines where there may be significant constraints to cross-application of the data. To others, his comments will be more accusatory that the research community is insufficiently critical when utilizing the cross-disciplinary outputs of others work and that in other cases,

researchers do not provide convincing lines of evidence to support their hypotheses and models.

A cornerstone of Hamilton's lecture was the proposal that there were no semi-rigid Archaean lithospheric plates, as required by Plate Tectonic theory, earlier than two billion years before present. Key parts of Hamilton's proposed pre 2-billion years (2 Ga) early earth model are based on widely accepted theory and do not represent a significant challenge to this. Examples include the fact that the Archaean (>2.5 Ga) crust and mantle being hotter, and therefore having significantly higher heat flows in the past; the implication being that we cannot assume that recent plate tectonics as we see it in the Phanerozoic (since 545 Ma) has always existed. Early Earth tectonic models need to couple Archaean crustal pressure-temperature conditions with mechanisms of higher heat flow.

Important geochemical rock type variations also need to be taken account of in proposed models. Highly contrasting rocks are observed – but how can these be derived from similar basaltic parent materials and under what upper mantle conditions? The underlying question continues to be debated: When did the modern style of plate tectonics still in operation today, initiate?

For large scale processes such as plate tectonics, being able to consider the big picture is truly crucial. A solid technical background is fundamental, but an open mind and intellectual courage are also needed when carefully scaling up local or regional observations by orders of magnitude. Forming tentative answers to such big questions requires bold ideas. "Megathinking" is a term coined to describe the geoscience thinking needed. Standing on the bounds of what is known and understood, any researcher has a high chance of being at least partially incorrect.

Paul Hoffman is an excellent, positive example of how influential scientists can utilize an unconventional theory that they develop to further the thinking of the whole scientific community. One of Hoff-

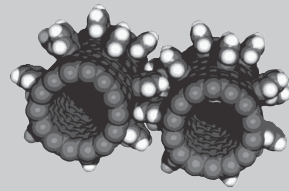
man's signature theories is the well-known "Snowball Earth Theory," presented in various papers since the early 1990s. To many climatic researchers, global glaciation is a fairly controversial hypothesis and still debated. Despite the data/technical ambiguities in such a topic, Hoffman is credited with posing many stimulating questions, forcing the research community to think carefully about the robustness of alternative ideas and models. Iterative self-review is positive and necessary, and over time, advancement is made.

Successfully challenging how we look at a given subject is perhaps the most important contribution any researcher or group can hope to make, and perhaps also the most difficult to achieve. Engrained perceptions and biases are significant aspects to overcome if balanced, original concepts and new ideas are to be produced. It is difficult to keep in mind that many research outputs are still ultimately just theories – "Best fit" interpretations from limited datasets. Dogma is a common problem in science; that is, the acceptance of an idea or guiding principal taken to be an absolute truth, regardless of proof. The scientific process requires theories to be supported by cited, verifiable evidence.

Well framed questions are highly effective in advancing scientific thought. Where systems are highly complex, the first challenge is to break the problem down into elements where it is possible to simplify part of the problem to consider in isolation whilst still learning about the whole system.

Hamilton set out to challenge what he considers to be unsupported, widely accepted dogma. Without such scrutiny, many mythical beliefs would still be accepted as "fact." Hamilton set out his personal theory, but was somewhat hypocritical with his approach, providing insufficient supporting evidence and not fully addressing questions from the audience. Some researchers present clearly felt that Hamilton went beyond constructive questioning of the work of others.

When nanoparticles are gellin' Assembling nanoparticles without oxides



COURTESY WIKIMEDIA

Benjamin M. Weilert
Staff Writer

The quest to achieve smaller and lighter devices has pushed forward research on nanotechnology. In particular, one aspect of nanotechnology is assembly of nanoparticles.

The problem with nanoparticles is that they are far too small to be assembled by human hands. Stephanie L. Brock, of Wayne State University's Department of Chemistry, gave a lecture last Friday examining a solution: Sol-Gel methods for assembly of nanoparticles.

"If you are interested in solid state devices, and you are making your nanoparticles from the bottom-up, you're making them in solution. Then, at some point you have to get them out of solution, you have to integrate them with each other and into solid state devices," Brock explained. "We want a method of self-assembly that's going to allow us to link the particles together."

One process involves hydrolysis followed by condensation of the product until a silicon oxide gel is produced in methanol. However, to be useful, the gel must be dried. Unfortunately, one cannot leave the gel out on the laboratory bench, as it will lose its structure and turn into what is called a xerogel.

Brock talked about her group's method of drying, "If you really want to retain this kind of structure while you dry it, then there are a variety of ways of doing it, but the one way that we've adopted is really to use supercritical fluid extraction."

When the gel is dried in this fashion, the product is called an aerogel due to the presence of air pockets retaining the original structure. "This is a great architecture for silica," said Brock. The properties of the aerogel are somewhat limited, but can be adjusted. Brock clarified, "You can start to change the properties by

making composites." These composite aerogels now develop new properties such as insulation and conductivity.

Yet, oxides (like silica) can sometimes be troublesome, and alternatives need to be found. "We want to look towards non-oxides." However, when researching what other people have done, little is found. "There's not a whole lot," remarked Brock.

The reasoning behind moving beyond oxides is due in part to the ability to engineer different properties. Brock explained that, "You can make them at different sizes and they have different luminescence properties, different luminescence colors." With these different colors, a veritable rainbow (literally) of gels can be formed.

The process of producing the nanoparticles is separated into two functions, "We're going to make our particles, and then we're going to assemble them," said Brock. She detailed the reliance of the properties of the gels on certain properties. "It's really going to depend on the density," said Brock. Luckily, the xerogel produced by leaving the sample out has a different density than the aerogel, so multiple properties may be obtained.

Other property experiments involved the basic elements of the gels. "We were interested in whether you could improve properties by altering the shape of the building block." When other building blocks, such as rods, were used, the strength of the gels improved.

In the final analysis, the gels produced were highly adaptable and useful for a multitude of purposes. Brock mentioned the simplicity of the production, "We just make the gel and we basically turn it into whatever we want." With a wide variety of applications, these gels could lead technology into even smaller realms.

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Mines Little Theater: Sly Fox

Pleasure engineers, police officers and alleged rape

Lily Giddings
Managing Editor

Students at the Colorado School of Mines have a wide variety of talents in science and mathematical fields. However, many students have well hidden artistic abilities that can only be expressed through extracurricular activities such as Mines Little Theater.

Directed by Paul Johnson with assistance from Wendy Brost, the first production of the year, *Sly Fox*, was a smashing success for the group. On opening night, Metals Hall held a large, eager audience. The performance was exceptional and well received.

The play is set in San Francisco in the 1800's and focuses on the antics of a talented conman, Foxwell Sly (or Sly), played by Nick Lubbers, and his assistant, Simon Able (known as Able), played by Will Spaeth. Other characters in the play include those being conned by Sly and Able: the lawyer Craven, played by JP Lacouture, old man Crouch, played by Thomas Baeck, and accountant Mr. Truckle, played by Thorn Svendsen.

The con consists of Sly acting the part of a wealthy, aged, sick man who borrows from his friends under the promise of repayment by naming them the sole and only heir to his will. Meanwhile, Sly's so-called friends are waiting for his demise so that they can collect on their investment. Able and Sly plot between themselves to wring every penny from Sly's hypocritical friends and then make away with

their ill-gotten gains.

The plan backfires, however, when Sly's greed gets the best of him in the matter of Mr. Truckle's wife. Able unwisely proclaims the beauty of Truckle's wife, played by Amanda Clark, whom Sly immediately declares he must have. A plan is then hatched to cause Truckle to pimp out his own wife as well as to cause Crouch to disinherit his own son.

Enter Captain Crouch, played by Ron Deiotte. He discovers Able at his father's office and demands an explanation. By way of explanation, Able invites the Captain to Sly's home to lay in wait for Crouch to come and announce the change in his will. The plan backfires when the Captain overhears Sly's attempt to seduce Truckle's pious and innocent wife.

Hilarity ensues as the Captain calls in the police and both Able and Sly are arrested under the charge of rape and assistance to rape.

As the men are in prison, the other characters organize a story to clear

Sly's name so that his estate is not given to the court as a result of his conviction.

The play ends with Sly being acquitted of the charges and faking his own death to see the faces of his "friends" as the will is read and they discover themselves to have been conned. Finally, Able, who has been named the legal sole and only heir to Sly's estate, attempts to double cross his benefactor, which backfires since Sly is too wily a fox to leave anything to do with his gold to chance.

The play is enriched by thoroughly amusing characters, including the incorrigible Ms. Fancy, played by Kate Reinking, a self-proclaimed "pleasure engineer," the clumsy police officers, played by Jordan Foss, Mary Snooks and Keegan Whistler, who arrest Sly and Able, and the witty judge/undertaker, played by Steve Daniel, who acquits Sly of the rape charges.

Overall, it was a very well executed play and the actors are to be commended.



BREE WALTMAN / OREDIGGER

Last Will and Testament. The characters await the official reading of Sly's will, each expecting to be named the sole and only heir.

Music Review

That They May Know You. Haste the Day

Stephen Bartels
Staff Writer

Haste the Day premiered seven years ago as a Christian Metalcore band with their self-released album, *That They May Know You*. The band got its name from the last verse of the hymn "It is Well With My Soul." That could be considered a statement for their legacy of outright Christian lyrics. On November 14, they released their fourth studio album, *Dreamer*, on Solid State Records.

The band suffers from one primary shortfall. In 2005, lead vocalist Jimmy Ryan left the band to get married and start the band Trenches. Stephen Keech has since taken his place and has yet to reach Ryan's level, though his performance on *Dreamer* is a step up from their last album, *Pressure the Hinges*. Another part has been missing-guitars. *Burning Bridges* set the level high with songs like "Substance," "Blue 42" and "American Love." Once Jason Barnes left, there was a gaping hole that has yet to be filled. The old days of smashing guitars and amazing vocals seem to have passed away into the memories of longtime Haste the Day fans.

That said, there are some positive aspects for this album. Haste the Day has always had smashing drum action, brought to you by Devin Chaulk. He continues the trend throughout this album with a great drum base and a fast beat throughout.

Now, as much as Keech does

not quite have the appeal and popularity that Ryan had, he does possess ability in his own right. He has a wider vocal range and a superb ability to switch from guttural screaming to harmonizing vocals then back to melodic screaming. Haste the Day also re-recorded their song "Autumn" from their first album, *That They May Know You*. This song showcases Keech's harmony ability and the softer side of his vocals. "Autumn" is a shorter recording and not quite as good as the original, but still reflects Ryan's vocals from the original version.

Haste the Day has continued their legacy of outright, blatantly Christian lyrics. On "Babylon," the song opens, "Foresee the day of the Lord / The Heavens blacken above them / The day will bring no light / for I will shake the heavens / Raise the flag on the hilltop / for now we march to Babylon." This is a prime example of how metalcore Christian bands have addressed more difficult subjects than the lyrics of standard contemporary Christian bands.

Looking at the album as a whole, Haste the Day has kept the strengths from *Pressure the Hinges*, and progressed in some areas. Unfortunately, they still have not returned to the caliber that they possessed while Jimmy Ryan was lead singer.

Track Picks:
"68," "Porcelain" and "Haunting"

Beer Review

Lion Brewery Stout

Akira Rattenbury
Staff Writer

Mufasa's choicest, The King of the Pride, Aslan's breath—if lions liked beer, I imagine they would enjoy this beer, especially if they liked slightly bitter, chocolatey stouts. This is not the stoutest of stouts, but it definitely is smooth and delicious.

The brew is imported from Ceylon, Sri Lanka with a happy-making 8% ABV. The bottle touts a "Quality Awards" label and the prominent accolades and endorsement of the "Beer Hunter" himself, Mr. Michael Jackson. If you're thinking "Thriller" or androgynous jerry curls, you should instead imagine a pasty Englishman known for his taste in beers. He likes this beer a lot.

The stout pours a thick 3 to 4 finger tan-colored head of frothy goodness above a dark brown syrupy beer. It packs

an impressive chocolatey, caramelized malt odor, which is not domineering nor trying to sell you more than you want.

The roasted, toasted, burnt (insert similar adjective here) smell comes out immediately on first taste. It's so smooth and creamy you'll feel just like Old Greg in no time. Other tasters, however, comment on its "slight bitter in the middle" taste on first sip.

"It tastes like coffee... a lot of bitter in the middle with almost a sour, bitter taste," commented Alex Brown, following a hearty sip. Pruney, coffee mocha characterize the taste. The finish is crisp, with stout-like oiliness and chocolate punishment, which meet the senses immediately, leaving the palate clean and wanting more. The lion is a sharp contrast to a drier, flavorless Guinness and is a true stout to revere.



AKIRA RATTENBURY / OREDIGGER

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE CAREER CENTER

These are the upcoming Career Center hosted events! Students, please sign up on DiggerNet as many information sessions offer refreshments and need to plan ahead.

Monday, November 10

AMERICAN CAST IRON PIPE 5-6pm Berthoud 241 C/S, Chem E, Civ, Elec, Env, Mech, ETM, Met/Mat, Mining, PE

Tuesday, November 11

WORLEY PARSONS 5:30-6:30pm Berthoud 241 Civ, Elec, Mech, EngSys, ChemE

Thursday, November 13

FRONTIER EL DORADO REFINING 6-7pm Brown 201 ChemE Intern possibilities, other majors come get to know the company!

SPECIAL INTERVIEW EVENT! MONDAY, NOVEMBER 17

Just in The Nick of Time (TNT), companies will be here to interview for full-time (primarily 8:30-11:30) and intern (1:30-4:30) candidates. Watch DiggerNet for this **OPEN SIGN-UP** event where you can book an interview time, if you meet the qualifications. New companies are added each day!



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We can assist with resumes, contract evaluation/negotiation, even video practice interviews!

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Must See Movies

Self-aware

Benjamin M. Weilert, Staff Writer

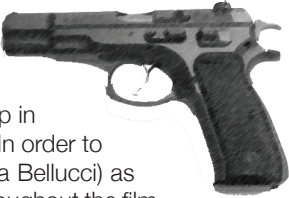
1. *Enchanted* (2007)

For decades, Disney has been cashing in on the “Princess” movie market. Such titles as *Snow White* (1937), *Cinderella* (1950) and *Sleeping Beauty* (1959) tell the story of a damsel in distress and the Prince Charming who comes to save her. *Enchanted* takes this concept and pokes fun at it while at the same time falling into it. This movie starts out as a classically animated story where Giselle (portrayed by Amy Adams), who sings of true love’s kiss, falls in love with Prince Edward (James Marsden) at first sight. *Enchanted* then shifts into the real world when Prince Edward’s evil stepmother, Queen Narissa (Susan Sarandon) sends Giselle to the real life New York. It’s in this backdrop where the absurd customs of cleaning animals, spontaneous singing and utter naiveté are brought to life. At the close, *Enchanted* relies on its storybook ending to jab at the “happily ever after” genre.



2. *Shoot ‘em Up* (2007)

Action movies have a notorious tendency to be light on plot and heavy on explosions. The entirety of the genre relies on high octane action sequences in order to make bank. *Shoot ‘em Up* is no exception. There’s just enough plot to incur multiple gunfights and creative ways to weaponize carrots, but not much past that. Clive Owen plays a man by the name of Smith who happens to get caught up in a national conspiracy involving babies raised for their inherent medical properties. In order to protect one of the babies, Smith calls on the services of Donna Quintano (Monica Bellucci) as they run from Hertz (Paul Giamatti), a hitman in charge of cleaning up the mess. Throughout the film, *Shoot ‘em Up* adheres to the action movie stereotype of the hero always hitting his mark (while the bad guys constantly miss), corny lines and ridiculous setups. However, it is able to do this while at the same time making fun of the whole genre by being as campy as possible.



3. *Planet Terror* (2007)

Half of the double feature, *Grindhouse/Planet Terror* takes horror/zombie/survival/B movies and shows them for what they really are. Trouble begins when a biological weapon is released that turns people into pus-filled, flesh-eating zombies. Humanity’s only hope lies in an unlikely band of survivors which include a stripper, a mechanic and a doctor. The violence is intense at times, but also strangely amusing. After one of the stripper’s legs goes missing, the only logical replacement is an enormous gun. What would be considered terrible 70’s cinema is purposely made in order to imitate the old style (even to the point of “accidentally” missing a reel), thereby falling into and parodying the genre at the same time.

For Homework – See *Kill Bill* (2003/4)

Concert Review: Danielson at the Hi-Dive

Tim Weilert
Content Manager

Music can be one of the truest forms of self-expression. A prolific songwriter has the ability to convey thoughts and emotions through song. Love, compassion, hope and healing were just a few of the driving factors that led Daniel Smith to begin his musical experiment known as Danielson. Smith, whose strong Christian roots and incredible personal story act as the backdrop for his songs, performed a stunning set at the Hi-Dive last Saturday.

The Hi-Dive has really started to grow on me. After seeing Ra Ra Riot there several weeks ago, I’ve begun to appreciate the cozy atmosphere, free water and excellent sound mixing. The entire night felt like a comfortable gathering of old friends.

Ian Cooke, a Denver cellist and songwriter, started the evening with an amazing set. Not only was his instrumental performance nearly flawless, but his smooth voice hit every note. Cooke used a variety of looping effects to create multiple harmonies with himself, a real treat for the ears. At the end of his set, the crowd called for more songs and he extended his set, something I have never seen happen with an opening act.

Up next was Cryptacize, an indie-pop band from the Asthmatic Kitty record label. Their simple sound and comically small instruments made

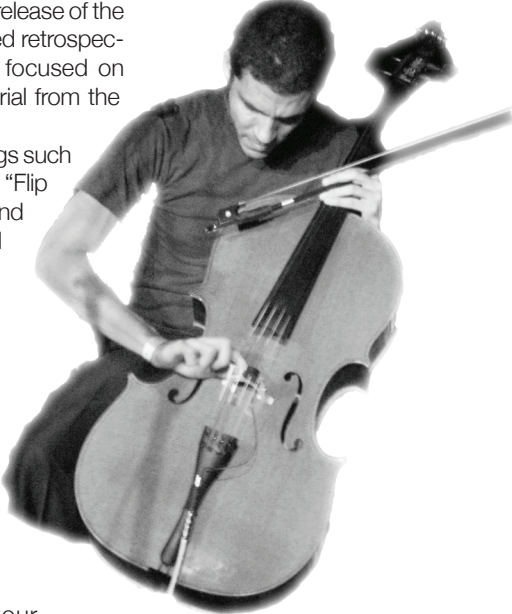
for a good show. Catchy hooks and flowing guitar riffs kept the music upbeat.

Finally, it was time for Danielson. Taking the stage in matching pilot’s uniforms, the seven members of Danielson filled the tiny stage at the Hi-Dive. “This song is a clap-along,” said Daniel Smith on multiple occasions throughout the show. In fact, there were clap-alongs, snap-alongs and sing-alongs; all of which got the audience involved and made the set enjoyable.

and made the set enjoyable. Rather than trying to decode Smith’s religious undertones and unique falsetto, I sat back and enjoyed the

show. To celebrate the release of the group’s recently released retrospective album, Danielson focused on playing their best material from the last ten years.

Playing through songs such as “Idiot Boksen” and “Flip Flop Film Flam,” Smith and company performed with intensity and sincerity. Danielson ended their set with “Five Stars and Two Thumbs Up” before performing two more songs as an encore (including “Did I Step On Your Trumpet,” one of my personal favorite Danielson tunes). For their performance, I give Danielson’s Denver tour stop five stars and two thumbs up.



ALL PHOTOS TIM WEILERT / OREDIGGER



Music Review

Black Sun. Ra.

Spencer Nelson
Staff Writer

The story of a group of musicians who have overcome obstacles and difficulties to achieve their dream of becoming “Rock legends” has been told far too many times. It is an interesting story, but generic nevertheless. However, it still happens to a select few. Perhaps these stories inspired Ra as they overcame their own difficulties with changing band members and record labels over the course of a decade. The feel-good story would end with Ra producing epic, inspiring music that would last for generations. Unfortunately, that is not the case. Much like the stories, Ra’s latest album is interesting, but generic.

Ra’s third studio album, *Black Sun*, might have been a moderate hit about 10 years ago at the birth of the nu-metal genre. However, since Korn and Disturbed and the endless spin-off bands filled out the genre, there is little room left for originality. *Black Sun* begins with a promising Latin guitar riff that quickly fades to grinding, crunchy guitars. The heavy guitars carry a catchy, simple riff that is enjoyable until it becomes monotonous. In all, the opening track, “Broken Hearted Soul,” is decent, but it is nice to move on from the continual repetition of the same riffs. This relief is not found anywhere on the rest of the album.

Taken individually, none of the

songs are too bad. Repetitive and generic, but still catchy and fast. However, listening to more than one is a monotonous experience. One unique aspect of the album is the distinct Middle Eastern sound found on many of the tracks. As a result, some of the guitar riffs are different than those typically found in mainstream rock. However, they are simply repeated too often. One song, “I Believe Again,” breaks away from this sound with a good mix of a strong piano and heavy guitars. Another plus is a considerably good use of harmonized vocals. The lead singer, Sahaj Ticotin, is a strong vocalist who holds the world record for holding the longest single note recorded. He demonstrates this ability incredibly on the third track, “The First Step,” where he holds one note for 24 seconds. All of the members of Ra are skilled in their musical ability and possess a solid sound as a band. Despite this talent and songs that sound good at first listen, the album as a whole fails to hold interest and quickly becomes boring. Although Ra desperately wants to be different, and made a good effort, they still fall securely in the nu-metal/hard rock genre.

FOR THE REST OF THE REVIEW, GO ONLINE TO WWW.OREDIGGER.NET



Geek of the Week

Alyssa Volk
Staff Writer

[Oredigger] Do you consider yourself a geek?

Yes, I definitely consider myself a geek. A lot of my hobbies are really geeky, such as video games and programming. Right now, I'm really into Fallout 3. It's an RPG game that just came out. I played it a lot over the weekend and procrastinated on a take-home final that is kicking my ass right now.

What is the geekiest thing you own?

I have a duct tape tuxedo and wore it during my junior year of high school. My fiancé, who was my girlfriend at the time, would never wear a duct tape dress, though. So I had to wear it before we got together. I sent in a picture to the duct tape contest and the contest people posted it online. It was white, with the duct tape duck logo on it. I figured I'd have a better chance of winning the contest if my tuxedo had the logo on it. I apparently was wrong.

Do you have any nicknames?

Moose. I went to the American Legion Boys State Conference for government leadership. All of the guys on my floor nicknamed me Moose and it just kind of stuck.

Do you have any phobias?

I'm really worried about people touching my eyes. I don't even like people kissing my eyes. It cracks my fiancé up.

Do you have any pet

peeves?

Stupid questions and stupid people. And yes, there are stupid people at Mines.

What is your favorite movie? Movie line?

My two favorite movies would have to be *Airplane* and *Monty Python and the Holy Grail*. My favorite movie line is "Don't call me Shirley." The quote is from the movie *Airplane* and is a parody of a drama. There is this scene with Leslie Nielsen and a couple of people in a plane. Both of the pilots pass out and there's only one passenger on the plane who has any chance of landing the plane. A guy says, "If you don't land this plane, everyone is going to die." The guy responds by saying "Surely you must be joking." The first guy says, "Don't call me Shirley." It's classic and a lot of people know exactly what it means.

What's your favorite geek joke or pick-up line?

I don't know if you're religious or know anything about Noah's Ark. But after Noah finally landed the ark, he told all of the animals to go multiply. All of the animals went off to do so, except for the snakes. The snakes went up to Noah and said, "Noah, we have a problem." Noah asked what the problem was. The snakes said "We're adders, and so we can't multiply." To that, Noah replied "I'll tell you what to do. You see that tree over there?" The snakes nodded yes. "I want you to go cut down that tree and make a table out of it." The snakes asked

...Garett Jennison, Senior: Mechanical Engineering

why. And Noah replied "Everyone knows that even adders can multiply with a log table."

Why did you choose to attend Mines?

I'm originally from Johnstown, which is just a little cow town south of Greeley, Colorado. I wanted to be an engineer and I thought CSM would be a lot better choice than CSU or even CU.

What is the geekiest thing you've seen at this school?

My reflection. But I've also seen kids at Mines that make me feel normal, which never happened in elementary school or even high school.

What do you think of brown-nosing at Mines?

I could write a book on it. I wouldn't have the GPA that I have now if I didn't know how to brown-nose. To be good at brown-nosing, you have to make friends with your professors. It's definitely saved my ass in a couple classes and there's no way I deserved some of those A's that I got.

What activities or clubs are you involved in?

Right now, I'm involved with SWE, or the Society of Women Engineers. My fiancé is really good friends with some of the people who are members. I decided I wanted to join for the networking purposes and I also really like the SWE sponsor, Candy. I'm also involved in Tau Beta Pi, which is an academic honor fraternity.

What do you hope to do with your degree?

Eventually, I want to work at a nuclear power plant or as an engineer designing nuclear reactors.

What is your favorite gadget, electronic, or piece of technology?

I'd have to say my TI-36 X calculator is my favorite. Real men use 36 X calculators. I also have a slide rule that I really like; those are pretty cool.

Do you have any geeky talents?

I've made a bunch of shit out of duct tape all

throughout high school. The tuxedo was definitely the tip of the iceberg, though. I also do a little bit of juggling. My dad taught me and I can even do one mildly cool trick. I can hold all three balls in one hand and just toss them and start going. I even once learned to juggle basketballs when I was in my PA class.

If you could have any superhero power, what would it be and why?

I would love to have x-ray vision so that I could cheat at poker.

Tell me something about yourself that very few people know.

I really like Simon and Garfunkel music. But my favorite song is Star Star by The Rolling Stones.



ALYSSA VOLK / OREDIGGER

Restaurant Reviews

Sophie Hancock
Staff Writer

On September 24, some of Denver's top eating and drinking establishments came together to showcase their dishes at the Westword Menu Affair. The event was hosted in the Fillmore Auditorium on Clarkson and attended by over 40 Denver businesses.

With a backdrop of chandeliers and mellow jazz, hundreds of diners road-tested the signature dishes, drinks

and cocktails. Here, a review of a selection of world culinary styles, especially for the Oredigger Readers.

The restaurants are scored on a five star rating prices are scored within three ranges:

\$ - under \$15, \$\$ - \$15-30; and \$\$\$ - over \$30 per person, for two courses without drinks.

So whether it is a birthday, a visit from the parents or just a chance to have a change of scene from Golden, you will know where to head for a veritable feast.

Old versus New Steakhouse

Buckhorn Exchange
100 Osage St.
Denver, CO 80204
(303) 534-9505
www.buckhorn.com



\$\$\$

Denver's oldest restaurant certainly caught my attention. "What exactly is this?" I asked. "Buffalo tongue" was the reply. Glad I heard that after trying it, although buffalo tongue is surprisingly tender, like the most delicate stewing steak you can imagine.

The setting is uniquely historical, with the roof garden, climate-controlled outdoor dining area making an unusual venue for a date.

It will be no surprise that meat is the forte of this restaurant. Elk, quail and game hen were amongst other meats like alligator and rattlesnake. And do not forget the Rocky Mountain oysters. These delicacies do come at a price however.

Farraddays' Steak
401 Main St.
Black Hawk, CO 80422
(303) 998-7704
www.theisleblackhawk.com



\$\$\$

The food was excellent, but you cannot escape the corporate feel of the casino setting - so do not be tempted to blow your tuition and only spend your money eating at Farraddays'.

In particular, the Angus beef cuts and seafood were superb quality, fresh and cooked well. Service was also great, so combined with an eye watering menu there is really nothing I can criticize other than its over smooth chain ambience.

Indian Restaurants

Bombay Clay Oven
Cherry Creek North,
165 Steele St.
Denver, CO 80206
(303) 377-4454
www.bombayclayoven.com



\$\$

Little India Restaurant
330 E. 6th Ave.
Denver, CO 80203
(303) 871-9777
Also sites at S. Downing St
and Champa St, Denver, CO
www.littleindiadenver.com
For delivery, call (303) 534-8646



\$\$

What a contrast - the Bombay Clay Oven to Little India. There is no competition.

The Bombay's chef Marshall might not sound Indian, but he is, and the superior Indian food at his restaurant bears this out.

The potato vada is a kind of spicy dumpling in taramind sauce, a new but delicious dish to me, so it comes highly recommended. An excellent chicken tikka masala was served by people who instantly feel like friends. I urge you to try it for yourselves.

The Bombay Clay Oven advert says Denver's best Indian cuisine - my survey is not complete, but I am prepared to bet that they are not lying.

Perhaps the "buffet" style and the multi-site restaurant business set-up should have been warning enough.

I had received some comments before going that Little India was a good restaurant, but it falls far short of expectations of the taste buds of someone used to eating in "The Balti Triangle" area of Birmingham, England.

Of the three dishes I sampled, one was decent (chicken), one was average (lamb) and one was downright poor (curried vegetables). At best, this can be described as a "bog-standard" restaurant, indistinctive and lacking flair. It is no way to experience Indian cuisine.

European Influenced Cuisine

Gaetano's
3760 Tejon St.
Denver, CO 80211
(303) 455-9852
www.gaetanositalian.com



\$\$

Las Brisas
6787 S. Clinton St.
Englewood, CO 80112
(303) 792-3212
www.lasbrisasrestaurant.com



\$\$

This is genuine Italian food, true Italian and not American Italian.

Menu highlights include the garlic Italian sausage in a tomato sauce, a sharing platter of antipasti, meatballs and eggplant parmigiana.

The restaurant's origins as a long standing family restaurant shine through and for those of drinking age, the waiting staff are bound to offer you a house-distilled Limoncello to finish off your meal. It is like stepping back off the boat to Sicily.

The food of Las Brisas comes from exotic shores - Spain, Mexico and coastal South America, so there is plenty of choice.

There were margaritas, dips and seafood done to perfection. Crusted Salmon, Mahi Mahi Salteado and Shrimp Scampi were all too tempting. A couple of dishes not to be missed include paella, the warm creamy enchiladas de marineras, or the asado style (BBQ) meats.

Alongside the food comes that Latin sense of party vibe, completing a wonderful dining experience.

Desserts to die for

Happy Hornet
76 Broadway
Denver, CO 80402
(303) 777-7676
http://www.hornetrestaurant.com/



\$-\$

The hornet is run by a couple who pour love into all their modern favorites at bargain prices for such quality food.

There was an impressive queue of guests keen to sample the mac-n-cheese, although they offer Creole, Cuban, Mexican foods and even British fish and chips.

For a mere \$5, you can have Jose's homemade Bread Pudding a la mode, served with warm caramel. I can close my eyes and still remember how good it was.

D Bar Desserts
1475 E. 17th Ave.
Denver, CO 80218
(303) 861-4710
http://www.dbardesserts.com/



\$\$

After munching my way through a crunchy parfait of dark chocolate and cream, I was sold. I was also not surprised to find out that resident chef Keegan Gerhard is also something of a celebrity on the cooking circuit.

In a nod towards childhood, Gerhard also offers a "cake and a shake," or milk and cookies alongside serious puddings for grownups with a sweet tooth. The liquid center chocolate cake is divine.

The restaurant also serves main meals, but I did not let that distract me from the real business!

**For more reviews go to
www.oredigger.net**

Non-Geek of the Week

Benjamin Johnson
Staff Writer

[Oredigger] What is your favorite sport?

[Brawand] I don't like sports, but gymnastics is pretty cool. Bobsledding looks like a cool sport, I want to do that. I would like to do a dog sled race where you go out for two days and freeze your butt off; I don't know why because I don't like the cold and I don't even like dogs that much.

Did you play sports in high school?

I played soccer, if I got any fatter I would have made a good goalie, I could just stand there and block everything. The only exercise I got in high school was the thumb exercise playing GameCube and getting up to go to the fridge for a soda.

What are your favorite activities?

Eating pie and working out. I really like playing Metal Gear Solid 4 and MGS1, that one's a good game too. I also like playing drums.

Do you have a girlfriend?

No, I'm married whether the rest of the world wants to admit it or not.

What aspect of her is the most attractive to you?

I have to be careful on this one. The woman just has a really good heart, she really does love the Lord her God with all her heart and mind and soul. It's really good to be with someone who is as excited to love God like I am. She also cares for the less fortunate and takes care of my little brother and kind of acts like a mother around him, that's just really

attractive to me.

Do you workout?

Yes.

What is your favorite exercise?

I really like dumbbell flat benchpress, that's a really good one. I kinda take pride in my squats. There are plenty of guys who squat more than me but I really like to maintain good form on the squats. I like dead lifting too; I just wish I was better at it. The funniest exercise to watch is the one where they hang this rope around their heads and are trying to work their necks.

What do you want to do after graduating?

Have kids, definitely. I want to have a house and kids, and go to church every Saturday and have two golden retrievers and have a white picket fence.

Why did you come to Mines?

I heard it was one of the best engineering schools in Colorado, so that's why I came here.

What is your favorite type of automobile?

Raven R1, those are cool. As for a car, I have a 1997 Dodge Dynasty, its blue, it has a V6 in it, and it's like a big couch and the thing hauls (that thing is such a piece of junk). The coolest one ever was this trike me and my buddies welded together. We basically chopped up two bicycles and welded that all together and put a piece of plywood over the triangle. We put could put 4 guys on that trike and the whole idea to stopping was, we didn't have any brakes, so

what we did was put a big hole in the center of the plywood and we just put this pole down the center and when we would crank it back it was supposed to stop us. We also had this anchor; it was really heavy and thick, but we didn't have a very hot welder, so four of us guys are hauling' down this hill and of course this metal brake won't stop us so we say throw over the anchor and the chain holding the anchor broke and we just ate it in the ditch. That was the best automobile I ever owned.

Where is the best place to hang out on campus?

In your Physics lecture room, that's the best place. Does anyone really hang out on Mines' campus? The hot tub in the Rec Center is the only place I actually hang out.

What do you like to do in your free-time?

Other than spending Friday nights alone in a dark room playing WoW and discussing magic cards, I really like working out. Eating pie, I really like pie. I like spending time with my wife and spending time with other people. Generally I know you are not supposed to let people know your good deeds, but to answer honestly, I really like to go down Urban Peak and serve there, it is definitely one of the most rewarding experiences.

What is your favorite type of pie?

I don't have a favorite pie, I just like them all. I like apple pie, rhubarb pie, pecan pie, blueberry pie, my wife makes this banana cream pie and pumpkin pie is really, really good. I

...Nick Brawand, Sophomore: Physics

once worked out with Terry Taylor; I'm not sure if he was a pro bodybuilder, but during the offseason, he would wake up around two in the morning and eat a pie. I did not do that myself but the guy was huge so I figured pie must have some type of beneficial bodybuilding effects to it.

If you were able to solve any problem in the world, what would it be?

My wife always thinks we are having problems, so I would like to fix those. I don't even know what I am doing wrong most of the time; they put CAPA problems to shame because the ones when you don't know the problem are the hardest ones to fix.

What is the riskiest thing you have ever done?

I owned a motorcycle so I had a lot of fun on that thing. I drove like a grandma so I don't how risky that was. The actual most risky t i m e

had not been riding mine for very long so I wasn't very advanced in riding yet. That thing was fast.

What type of motorcycle did you own?

It was an FZR 600, Yamaha 1995, you see them around, they are pretty cheap.

What kind of music do you like?

I really like 80's music and I like classical music a lot too.

What is your favorite band?

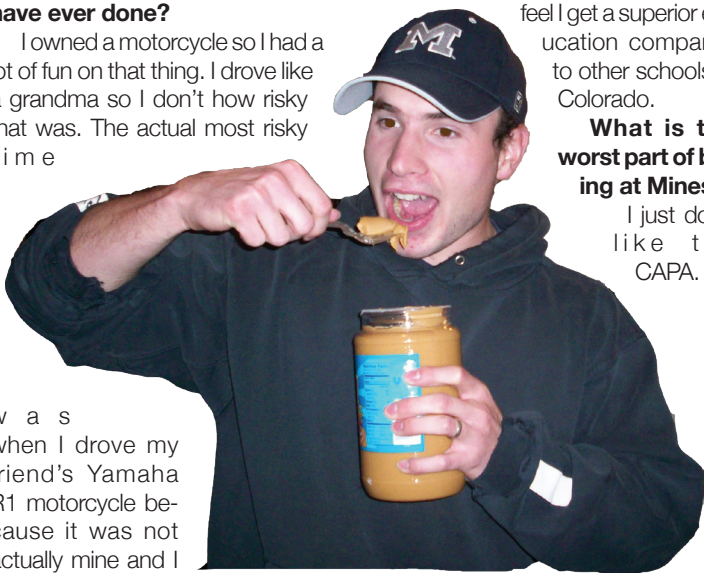
Journey. I like the song "Don't Stop Believing." I don't like them as much anymore, but that was the song I liked for the longest time.

What is the best part of being at Mines?

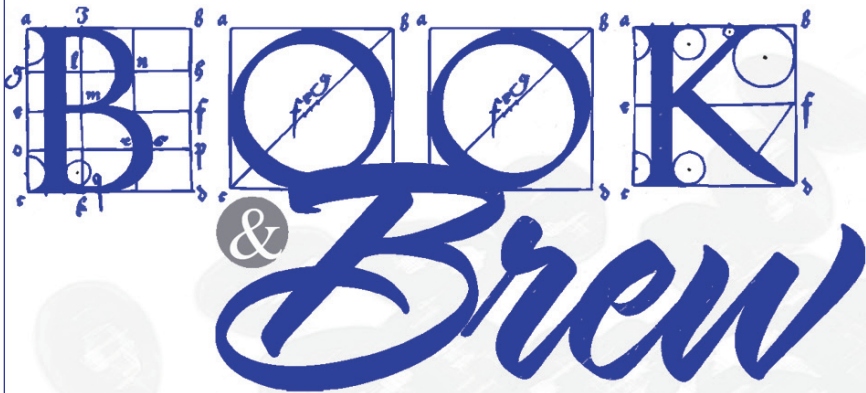
I enjoy Mines because I feel I get a superior education compared to other schools in Colorado.

What is the worst part of being at Mines?

I just don't like the CAPA.



BENJAMIN JOHNSON / OREDIGGER



at Arthur Lakes
Library



...Get Your Coffee On

- Hormone-free Milk
- Do you work on Campus on Saturdays? You can now get your AFPP (afternoon face plant prevention) at the Book & Brew from noon - 4:00PM
- Also open Sundays 1:00-9:00PM

- PROUDLY SERVING
ALLEGRO COFFEE & TEA
- ORGANIC ESPRESSO DRINKS

Club Spotlight: Linux Users Group

Michael Rose
Staff Writer

“The Linux Users Group meets bi-monthly to discuss Linux, whether that be helping a user with their computer, listening to what local company speakers have to say about their use of Linux in the workplace or sharing new things a member has found,” according to Linux User Group (LUG) club president Samuel Goodwin. The LUG meets every two weeks to bring people together who share an interest in Linux.

Club activities include such things as presentations on GnuPG, a popular open source key management system, cross-compiling for other processor architectures and many other Linux-related topics. Members can present whatever it is that they are personally interested in or suggest topics to be discussed on the group’s website.

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“Everyone benefits from sharing information and talking to people who also enjoy Linux.”

signing up for the mailing list at <https://mailman.mines.edu/mailman/listinfo/lug> and attending our meetings.”

Meetings are held every two weeks in the Mac lab in the basement of the CTLM Computer Commons building at 7 PM on Mondays. Anyone is free to attend. Members don’t have to be Computer Science majors to enjoy Linux. All are welcome to join the Linux User Group.

corporations which use and sell proprietary software.

On November 10, members of the Linux User Group will be taking a field trip to Sun Microsystems’ testing campus in Denver, where various technologies used by Sun will be showcased, including robotic arms to manage tape drive arrays, RFID tags, improved network stacks and innovative new enterprise-grade network switches.

The LUG also hosts its own events. Earlier this semester, the LUG held a LAN gaming party in the CTLM. Members played StarCraft, Unreal Tournament, Defense of the Ancients and Rock Band, staying up late into the morning hours and eating pizza.

“Students should join the LUG if they’re curious about Linux or super-experienced or anywhere in between. Everyone benefits from sharing information and talking to people who also enjoy Linux,” says Goodwin, “Students can get involved by signing up for the mailing list at <https://mailman.mines.edu/mailman/listinfo/lug> and attending our meetings.”

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Faculty Spotlight: Dr. Chuck Stone

Patrick Beseda
Staff Writer

It’s no secret that, among physics professors, Dr. Chuck Stone is a student favorite. A relatively new faculty member, Dr. Stone teaches Physics I here at the Colorado School of Mines (CSM). Stone, who has a Ph.D. from UCLA, is also a mentor for a CSM101 section. His lectures and studio sessions are, according to one freshman, “Kind of fun, and pretty easy to relate to.” Another student who took his course last semester remarked, “Being a notoriously difficult class, it’s nice to have a teacher that makes it a little easier to get through.”

Conversing with Dr. Stone reveals an enthusiastic, honest and slightly eccentric professor. However, through these eccentricities - his oddly direct questions, seemingly off-topic stories and thought-provoking statements - shines a certain wisdom, backed by knowledge and experience.

Regarding students at Mines, Dr. Stone said, “I’ve come to learn that students don’t realize their potential.

You can do more than you think. The students here have a lot of potential to grow into.” Stone hopes he may be able to settle down here at Mines, “If you’ve got the greatest job in the world, which would be taste testing Ben and Jerry’s Ice Cream, but you’ve got a jerk on your right and a jerk on your left, you’re not going to last.” He said that he’d like to “Become part of the fabric of the Golden community” and really give back to the community. When asked about his favorite aspect of CSM, he simply responded, “The people. The solid leadership here really encourages me to do the best that I can.”

Aside from teaching, Stone has some remarkable hobbies and interests. “You’ve got to balance the three A’s. Academics, the arts and athletics.” During his summers off, Stone enjoys trail running, road biking and “Ultra-long distance hiking.” His longest hike comes in at 2700 miles - nearly the length of the United States!

Dr. Stone also has a passion for music. Beethoven is one of his favorite composers. He describes a

childhood memory, “I would play by myself and hear my music, but when I got into the whole orchestra, your mind opens up and you realize that music is bigger than the sum of the individual parts.”

Stone’s future plans at CSM include teaching new courses and outreach programs. He would like to develop a course that teaches the physics of sound and music. In addition, he hopes to get the opportunity to develop a science education outreach program. With current students reaching out to younger peers, he hopes to generate interest in the sciences and CSM at an early age. Dr. Stone also hopes to develop a Research Experience for Undergraduates program that would allow undergraduates to participate in research with top-level researchers working on cutting-edge problems.

According to Stone, “We’re all ambassadors for the Colorado School of Mines. If someone sees a Mines student upside-down in a bush, they will think of all Mines students that way. So keep that in mind.”

Ask Mabel

Dear Mabel,
I hear it’s flu season again. What can I do to keep from getting the flu? And don’t tell me to get the shot, because the last time I had a flu shot, I got really sick!
Signed,
Flu-phobe Phil

Dear Flu-phobe,

Of course I’m going to tell you to get a flu shot if you haven’t already! The influenza vaccine protects you against Influenza A and B, both of which will make you sick as a dog and swearing that you’ll never again forego your flu shot!

The Centers for Disease Control formulate the yearly vaccine on models that predict which three strains will be the most prevalent this year. It changes annually, and on occasion (like last year) the flu types chosen for the vaccine do not match up to what actually visits the community. It’s frustrating to get influenza after receiving the vaccine, but as a rule, your symptoms will be a bit milder.

The vaccine is made up of *inactive virus*. That means you cannot get influenza from the shot itself. Read that line again. If you get “true flu” immediately after your flu shot, then you were exposed to it before you got the vaccine.

So, what are the symptoms of influenza? A sudden onset of high fever (101-102), body aches like you’ve been slammed by a truck, sore throat, headache and cough. You won’t want to get out of bed to come to see us at the SHC. You certainly won’t feel up to sitting in class. And, if you have a chronic illness like diabetes or asthma, the flu puts you at risk for complications that could land you in the hospital.

Many people consider *any* illness “The flu.” Flu is not the common cold. It is not gastroenteritis, though we commonly call that “Stomach flu.” The flu shot will not prevent you from getting sick with these ailments.

If you are adamant about not getting the flu shot, here’s what you can do to avoid catching someone else’s flu germs (or avoid giving someone else your germs!):

Wash your hands. A lot. With soap and water or Purell.

Cover your sneezes and coughs. Then throw away the Kleenex and wash your hands.

Keep your immune system strong by getting plenty of sleep and good food.

If, in spite of your best efforts you



do get the flu, here’s what you do:

Come to the SHC for an evaluation. We need to make sure you don’t have strep throat or pneumonia, and we have a rapid test to determine whether or not you truly have influenza.

If we see you within 48 hours of the onset of your illness, and it is “True flu,” then you can get a prescription for an anti-flu medication to help lessen the severity of your symptoms.

Rest, drink plenty of fluids and take Tylenol or ibuprofen for you body aches and fever.

Expect to miss a lot of class. You won’t feel like going and it’s not fair to expose your classmates or the general public to your germs.

Have I convinced you yet to come to the SHC for your **free** flu shot? If not, and you need more research-based explanations, go to the experts at <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/>.

Faculty Spotlight: Terry Bridgman

Autumn Triesch
Staff Writer

North Carolinian math and computer science professor Terry Bridgman has always had an interest for math. “I never changed majors when I was in college. I have always enjoyed math, though I have at times considered different aspects of math,” said Bridgman.

He graduated from Furman University with an undergraduate degree in math and a minor in computer science. He continued to graduate school at the University of North Carolina. Bridgman moved to Colorado in 1994 and has been teaching at the Colorado School of Mines since 2001.

“It’s the largest concentration of geeks in Colorado, so I feel pretty comfortable around them,” said Bridgman.

Bridgman is the faculty advisor for Kappa Mu Epsilon, a chapter of the Honorary Mathematics Society. He is currently teaching Linear Algebra and Introduction to Real Analysis.

“I try to start all of my classes with a good thought or laugh. Hopefully, that is a reflection of the fact that I enjoy what I do and the class enjoys what I do as well,” said Bridgman.

Bridgman was rated a 3.5/5 for overall quality on www.ratemyprofessors.com, with raving reviews on how he is always in a good mood and will make you laugh during class.

“He makes boring material fun and explains interesting material as well. If you get the chance, take any class with him and it will be the highlight of your academic day, everyday,” said a review of

MATH458, Abstract Algebra, last semester.

Bridgman is currently a PhD student as well as a professor. He has collaborated with Dr. Willy Herman for the Oct. 3 MACS colloquium about symbolic computation and lax pairs of two-dimensional nonlinear partial difference equations. “I have begun some research efforts,” said Bridgman.

Outside research and teaching, Bridgman enjoys the arts and the outdoors.

“I [like] cycling, gardening and art. I do a variety of projects such as pottery and drawing. I never get to do all of this as often as I would like,” said Bridgman.

“I [would] like to try and learn the guitar and try my hand at acting. Those are just some of my unusual interests on my ‘to-do’ list,” said Bridgman.

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CSM volleyball “digs” deep

Women’s volleyball hoping for improvement

Keegan Hammond
Staff Writer

Your lady Orediggers volleyball team entered Friday's tournament with an impressive 12-5 record in Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference (RMAC) play. Yet, as the ladies prepare to head off to

That record is not surprising, since yesterday, Kaity Edmiston (junior) was named to ESPN *The Magazine's* third team academic all-district team. Elizabeth Serra-Hsu (sophomore) made sure that her teammate wasn't the only one to receive accolades and, on Novem-

Game
one started with a Regis Ranger serve with junior Tara Schwein answering back with a smashing kill for an Oredigger first point.

com-
pete
in the re-
gional tourna-
ment (November 14, 15 and 16), they encountered a minor tangle in the net Friday in the second-to-last regular season game against Regis University.



ALL PHOTOS COURTESY KEEGAN HAMMOND / OREDIGGER

ber 3, was named the RMAC Offensive Player of the Week. This tribute was a follow up to her October 20 RMAC Offensive Player of the Week and August 29th RMAC Defensive Player of the Week accomplishments. Sophomore Kirstie Bunting also had the honor of being named the RMAC defensive player of the week

October 6. Quite an accomplishment, ladies!
Prior to the game's start, the players honored their favorite professors for professor appreciation night. Game one started with a Regis Ranger serve with junior Tara Schwein answering back with a smashing kill for an Oredigger first point. With Mines leading 10 to 5, Regis called a timeout. Many skilled volleys ensued, however CSM couldn't seem to get everything flowing in the right direction and the Rangers won the first game of the match 25-23.
Hard hits from Regis and a lack of CSM blocks plagued game two. The keys to Regis' success in this game appeared to be hard line drives and well placed tips. The Orediggers battled hard, but lost the second game 25-20. In game three, the intensity could be cut by a knife. Regis started with the serve, but was robbed of the point when Serra-Hsu answered back with a kill. This sent both teams into a point to point battle with perfectly placed sets, knee bruising digs and bullet line serves. Regis pulled ahead and won 25-21.

After the match, head coach Jamie Skadeland, who is in her first season coaching, attributed the loss to a "Lack of blocking and no defense. We were ranked number one in blocking before this game, we need to work on that." She complimented the Ranger team saying that "Regis didn't have any errors and we had a ton; it is what it is. We need to work on playing our game, when we do this, we win. We played tense, nervous and had unforced errors. This isn't like us." When asked about how she believes this game will

tool and find it within to win. We put up a good fight, but we need to do better."
The Orediggers will have brought this motivation to their match with Metro State on Saturday November 8 and then head to University of Nebraska-Kearney November 14-16 for the regional tournament. They don't call us Diggers for nothing, so dig deep ladies, and go show that tournament what the ace record you've earned really looks like. We wish you luck!



Sophomore Kirstie Bunting also had the honor of being named the RMAC defensive player of the week October 6.

affect future ones and the team's mental state, Skadeland noted that "Mentally we need to step up and think, we need to be prepared, and hopefully the girls will use this as a motivational

Get to know the women’s basketball team

Elise Goggin
Staff Writer

Lightning strikes and the court lights get dim, supreme competition is about to begin, above the rim" (Space Jam lyrics).
Well, maybe they can't quite get above the rim, but the Colorado School of Mines (CSM) women's basketball team is definitely ready for some extreme competition. The team had their first exhibition game last Tuesday against Lamar Community College and they definitely came ready to play. The girls pushed the ball and showed a strong transition game while managing to hold their opponents to two field goals in the first half. Coach Paula Krue-

ger thought that the team looked good, but as any coach will tell you, there is always room for improvement. Coach Kruger believes that the team's "Decision making and mental toughness have got to get better when we're tired." Also, she commented that, overall, the team needs to "Do things the right way and put ourselves in a position to win every game." This Friday and Saturday, the team will get a chance to show their coach that they are ready to do this when they take on Wayne State and Northern State here at home.
This year, the women's basketball team has welcomed a new face to the coaching line-up with the addition of Brittany Rowley.

Coach Rowley, a Mesa State Alum, seems to fit right in at CSM and says she "Loves the coaching staff and the girls are awesome." Along with Coach Rowley, former player, Ashley Iverson, has also moved in as a coaching assistant to help with the posts.
That covers the coaches, but what about the players? Most of the fans out there know that it is always more fun to watch a game if you know someone playing. Therefore, the women's team would like to informally introduce themselves to the student body. Below, to the left, the team members are listed with their number, name, year, position and one quirky fact about themselves. Have fun getting to know them!

Number	Name	Year	Position	Random Fact
5	Peanut Eickelman	Senior	Point Guard	"Chocolate is my second love"
10	Steph Fogle	Freshman	Point Guard	"I am the Master of Disaster"
15	Emily Dalton	Junior	Forward	"I go to Cold Stone three times a week"
22	Angie Charchalis	Freshman	Guard	"I don't like peanut butter"
23	Laura Brigham	Sophomore	Guard	"I wear a side ponytail and tie-died shirts"
24	Julie Marshall	Senior	Guard	"I wish I had a magical power"
30	Rachel Herbert	Freshman	Center	"I'm terrified of mustard"
31	Kait Soehner	Junior	Guard	"I graduated with eight kids in my high school class"
33	Kelsey Crist	Junior	Forward	"I love grilled cheese"
40	Katie Carty	Freshman	Center	"I love Ben and Jerry's Half-Baked ice cream"
42	Brecca Gaffney	Sophomore	Forward	"I love to snowboard, but I'm not allowed to"
44	Savannah	Junior	Center	"I have never watched Star Wars and never will"
50	Stevie Hagemeister	Senior	Guard	"Elise Goggin is my favorite reporter"
	Ashley Iverson	Assistant Coach		"I love laundry"
	Coach Rowley	Assistant Coach		"I like ice cream"
	Coach Krueger	Head Coach		"I have six, no, seven tattoos"



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Marijuana has no place at Mines

LB Williams
Guest Columnist

Approximately 265 people attended the MAC Movie Night presentation of *Pineapple Express* this past Thursday evening. With attendance “Definitely in the higher region,” according to Movie Night chair Kate Reinking, what does this say about the CSM student body? Is our campus mentality on par with America’s growing trend towards accepting recreational marijuana use as a harmless pastime? Does our campus go along with the sentiment that trouble with weed only comes when you deal in large quantities? I can only hope that isn’t true. *Pineapple Express* is a new film from usually stoned comedian Seth Rogan and crew. The film glorifies marijuana use and frolics in the stupidity and slap-stick adventures packed within pothead culture. Honestly, I was quite disturbed when I saw the movie being promoted on campus by MAC last week. We do not need to advocate getting high, especially at our university! At minimum, marijuana has no place in engineering. While I understand that pot holds a classic place at universities, it’s seen as a harmless way to relax and rebel at a critical stage in young lives. That’s fine at Liberal Arts colleges where they study Keats and psychology, but not here at Mines. Come on, people! Marijuana is not a harmless drug. It might not be as physically and mentally dangerous as other drugs, but pot does lower sperm count, induces stupidity and laziness, impairs decision-making abilities and kills brain cells (which *never* regenerate). The last three are critical factors in Mines graduates’ futures. Underestimating the lasting effects of pot can lead to some sad and costly situations. “Let’s get high and build a forty million dollar space craft and crash land it into Mars because we screwed up our unit conversions” is one totally irresponsible and avoid-

able true-to-life example. Studies show that marijuana has a half-life of 28 days. For all you once-in-a-while tokers, do you think you don’t do your engineering homework high? If you have smoked recently, you do. The THC that gets you high stays in your system and builds up with repeated use. You may not feel high the next day, but the effects are with you. It will skew your calculations, short your safety factors and will eventually affect your grades. At the Colorado School of Mines, we’re preparing ourselves for bright futures, and for them, we need clear minds. We will build infrastructure the public will depend upon and make critical decisions that will affect our jobs, our own lives and the lives of others. I was encouraged when I heard that the MAC Movie Chair had prefaced *Pineapple Express* on Thursday night’s CSM showing with a disclaimer. With pot so prevalent in mainstream media today, it was great to know that the intention was to show the movie for entertainment value only and not to promote marijuana use on our campus. The shameless promotion of pot by American media needs to be put in a Hollywood perspective. A movie captures a period in time: the best of times or the worst of times. Marijuana-themed movies propagate the idea that marijuana is harmless and nothing but caper-driven fun. This is definitely not the case. Real life is more dangerous and has real consequences. All the high-speed chases in real life are never as minimally destructive as ruining a drive-through and some lawn ornaments. Cops aren’t as dumb as they are portrayed in pot movies; people do get sent to jail. I wish to give Mines’ minds the benefit of the doubt and believe that none of you aspire to be lazy nothings. Hopefully you see that the slap-stick fun in *Pineapple Express* is really exaggerated comedy to be enjoyed on a surface-level only. The scenes portrayed are nothing

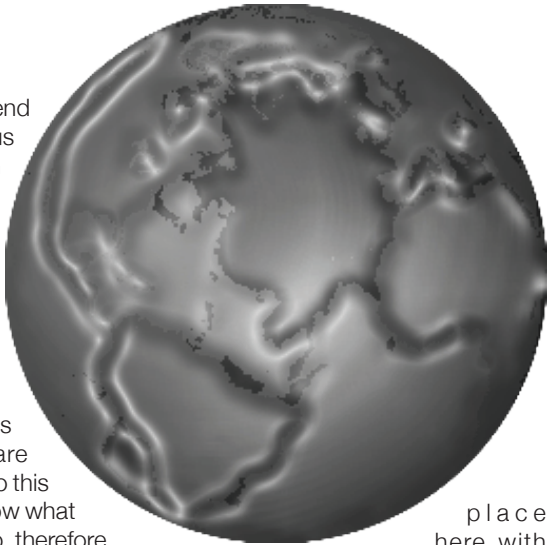
to aspire to. Real potheads are just video game-playing fools with no girlfriends. No one would have filmed Seth Rogan and crew just sitting on their couches at home getting fat with their munchies. If they hadn’t found a Hollywood outlet for their high, they’d be just like all the other pothead losers in the world proving “stupid is as stupid does” and getting nowhere in life. Admittedly, the majority of things are harmless in marginal quantities. Studies do show that one glass of wine a day can prevent a heart attack. Studies also show that cocaine is not good for anyone in any quantity. What we all need is a reality check. Too much alcohol can cause cirrhosis, bar fights, beer guts and car accidents. Too much studying can make you socially inept. Too much of anything is usually a bad thing. We all need to “Check ourselves before we wreck ourselves” or possibly harm anyone else. All things have their time and place. It’s all about the path we choose in life. Though some things will never have a place on my life’s timeline, I am no angel and I do like to party. I’m not trying to spoil your fun, but I do urge you to look ahead in your life, and to concretely visualize your goals in a “Setting context.” Where you are going, who you will be and how that will influence others should come into play when you make choices today. In our academic careers, we make daily choices to do our homework instead of wasting time in WoW. We spend our summers at engineering internships instead of hanging at the local pool and working in a pizza shop. Making intelligent decisions in your private/personal life are important as well. How do you spend your free time? You don’t always have to be bettering yourself, but you don’t have to be getting high. If you are chilling with friends on a Friday night, do you really need to get high to do it? I hope not, both for your sake and that of the next Mars Lander.

Cultural Diversities: Americans’s hospitality

Georges Ngonyani
Staff Writer

Let me begin by saying that “The eye is a better witness than the ear.” The reason I give for this judgment is due to the fact that I can now disprove some of the information that came to my ear before coming to US. In my opinion, Americans are viewed differently in other countries than the reality is. In Tanzania, most people view Americans as the busiest people in the world to the extent that they don’t have time to chat, share ideas or give a welcome to other people. My presence here has given me quite a different outlook. I am, therefore, going to describe Americans as I see them. They are smiling people, they always show a friendly smile, they are ready to help-every time I have been in need of help, when I stop someone to ask, one would help me. Others have been giving me a ride to where I want to go. Some people, once they find me stranded, they would ask me whether I need help. Americans think of others;

always during the end of the week, various people have been asking me of what is my plan during the weekend and then suggesting to me a couple of things that I could do during that particular weekend. This, to me, shows that they are aware that a person new to this place might not know what to do or where to go, therefore, they think of what one can do so as not to get bore. None can deny the fact that Americans like feeding other people; it looks amazing for someone preparing a meeting to then offer food for the participants, free of charge. Try to think of how many emails you receive that would invite you for an event, then be told that there will be free lunch! To me, this is nothing than hospitality. In Tanzania, people can invite you to have food in their homes, but not in meetings. In events such as those taking



place here with food, in Tanzania, they would last without it, and if the participants wanted to have food, then contribution would be inevitable. If you visit different offices at Campus, there will be candy, muffins, cinnamon buns or coffee-is this not hospitable? Let me finalize this article by telling the Tanzanians that, it is true that Americans are busy with work, but it isn’t true that one cannot stop working and talk to you. They always show a sense of hospitality.

Duffy’s Corner A fundamental shift...?

Kevin Duffy
Opinion Columnist

The Democrat’s stunning take-over clearly means an ideologically new direction for America’s policy in the coming years. What remains unclear is how long these coming years will last. For the better part of the past six decades, America could arguably be described as a center-right nation with periodic jaunts to the left. The election of President Obama and the 111th Congress may suggest a new trend in American political leanings towards a more permanent shift in that direction. Thus, the jarring question facing conservatives after this crushing defeat is whether the results from last Tuesday simply indicate another jaunt or whether it represents a much more fundamental movement. While America has enjoyed political leadership from both parties, recent history shows a clear rejection of politicians whom act and govern too heavily on the basis of liberal dogma. The quintessential example of this is President Clinton’s first two years in office. When the country elected Clinton in 1992, they also ushered in Democratic majorities in both the U.S. House and Senate. Taking this as a mandate for liberal policies, both branches adopted a strong bent toward the left with attempts at universal healthcare, gun ownership restrictions and the infamous “Don’t ask, don’t tell” policy. The American people responded by voting in Republican majorities to both chambers, establishing a more tempered, push-and-pull balance between the executive and legislative powers. Similar situations have played out in 1968 with the “Silent majority” election of President Nixon and the 1980 Reagan Revolution. Each instance uniquely putting the breaks on the nation’s preceding liberal tendencies. The historical account should not provide any solace to conservatives. While this election certainly could be a continuation of the past trend, there is striking evidence to suggest otherwise, most notably in the demographic breakdown of the results. The New York Times reported that voters under 30 years of age and Hispanics went for Obama by 66% and 67%, respectively. Compare this to the roughly 55% that supported Kerry from both groups, and the 50% from both groups that went for Gore. The trend is clearly alarming and one that cannot continue if the GOP wishes to reclaim dominance. While youth typically trend towards liberal candidates, there is a very real fear that many will continue this trend as they age, rejecting the conservative message. Potentially even more important than the message, though, is its delivery. Obama utilized an array of current technologies that connect to younger voters whereas the McCain camp was largely bereft of such novelty. The unfortunate downside is that the lack of effective communication with new technology also served to erode the message of Republicans as well. That is to say, young voters took the technological rift as evidence of a party disconnect with their generations needs and desires.

The Hispanic trend could prove even more distressing because conservatives rely on this group as an essential component of their “Values voters” and because census data suggests this demographic will only increase in population over the years to come. Estimates of the portion of Hispanics whom consider themselves Catholic range from 70% to 90%, with Protestant and other Christian affiliations filling out the rest of the population. Religious Hispanics have often followed suit with many in the Evangelical right and put social issues such as abortion and gay marriage on the forefront of their political concerns. There is no indication that Hispanics care any less about these issues today, but there is evidence that the failing economy and recent fire-and-brimstone rhetoric about illegal immigration has pushed them to sway political allegiance. Also, with the growth rate of the Hispanic population being over three times the growth rate of the U.S. population in general, a wholesale change of political allegiance would be a devastating loss for Republicans. The doom-and-gloom news of the past election does have a bright spot for conservatives, if only a solitary one. Constitutional bans on gay marriage passed in three states. California, Arizona and Florida all passed bans, bringing the total number of states with similar bans up to 30. In the heat of an election that swept Democrats and their progressive agendas into power, voters in a blue state, a red state and a swing state all issued their verdict on societal virtues. Some see this as an indication that voters still hold many conservative principles and voted for the Democrats more as a referendum on the Bush administration rather than the prospects of left-leaning policies. Regardless, the news is not good for the GOP. Even if the country remains a center-right nation on the basis of traditional values, independents may be tired of voting solely on this basis. Conservatives must not forget these social issues since they are critical to maintaining societal cohesion. Rather, they must be included in the complete package of issues voters are caring about today, including the strong philosophy of economic conservatism. No intellectually honest person can say with certainty whether the election is yet another chapter in America’s temporary excursions to the left or a more profound change in the ideological fabric of the country. Conservatives would be wise to take a pessimistic view of the options. Sitting and waiting for another ‘94-esque takeover almost assures it will not happen again. They must fight like the party depends on it as, in fact, it does. If not, the disturbing trends in this election could signal a new era of progressive policy that most Americans would be wise to reject.

Editorial Policy

The Oredigger is a designated public forum. Editors have the authority to make all content decisions without censorship or advance approval and may edit submitted pieces for length so long as the original meaning of the piece is unchanged. Opinions contained within the Opinion Section do not necessarily reflect those of Colorado School of Mines or The Oredigger. The Oredigger does not accept submissions without identification and will consider all requests for anonymity in publication on a case-by-case basis. Submissions less than 300 words will receive preference.

Political real speak:

Election aftermath

Matthew Pusard
Content Manager

On November 4, 2008, Barack Obama became the country's President-elect, beating John McCain by a projected electoral count of 365 to 173¹. But while Obama's win was the big story of the night, a bunch of side stories may very well dictate how the first few years of his term will go. Here are the lesser-known stories to look out for:

3 Senate races to be decided

The Democratic Party had a successful day on November 4, picking up 6 senate seats to give them a 51+ seat majority for the first time since 1992². Since 2006, the Democrats and Republicans had 49 senators each with two independents caucusing with the Democratic Party. The official tally as of Saturday is 55 Democratic senators, 40 Republicans, 2 Independents and three undecided in the states of Minnesota, Alaska and Georgia.

Minnesota's senate races will be going to a recount as the incumbent, Norm Coleman (R-Minnesota), holds a 221 vote lead over his challenger, comedian Al Franken³. 2.4 million votes were cast in their election, and Minnesota state law mandates a recount with the race closer than .5% of the votes. The official recount will start on November 17. The two campaigns are currently jockeying for position in court, battling over the validity of certain votes such as late-arriving absentee ballots.

Meanwhile, incumbent senator Ted Stevens (R-Alaska), the longest-serving Republican senator in history, holds a 3,353 vote lead over challenger Mark Begich, the mayor of Anchorage, with thousands of votes yet uncounted⁴. The tightness of this race was a surprise to pollsters, who had Begich up by double digits going into election day⁵. The reason for this large lead for the challenger in a primarily Republican state was the felony conviction of Stevens on seven counts

of failing to report gifts received from VECO Corporation. If he is elected, Stevens would likely either resign his seat or be expelled from the senate due to his felony conviction. If this is the case, former Vice-Presidential candidate Sarah Palin may try running for his spot in a special election⁶.

The last contested race appears to be headed for a runoff. Incumbent Saxby Chambliss (R-Georgia) garnered 49.8% of the votes in his race against his opponent Jim Martin, who received 46.8%⁷. However, Georgia state law requires a candidate to receive 50% of the vote to win, so a runoff will be conducted on December 2⁸. Martin has already invited Obama to campaign on his behalf while McCain, who won Georgia in the presidential election, will be campaigning for Chambliss⁹.

Joe Lieberman to be punished?

The Democrats could gain control of a filibuster-proof 60 senate seats if they win all 3 undecided senate races. But this total also depends on the two independents who caucus with the party. Senator Lieberman (I-Connecticut) was a long-time Democrat, even running as Al Gore's vice presidential pick in 2000 before losing his democratic primary in Connecticut in 2006. Lieberman then ran, and won, as an independent in that Senate race and has been caucusing with the Democrats.

However, Lieberman was critical of Obama during the presidential race and he publicly supported John McCain¹⁰. Lieberman was even rumored to be considered as McCain's vice presidential running mate. In the aftermath of the election, and with a majority secured in the senate, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid has been considering reprimands for Lieberman's lack of support for Obama, including stripping him of the chairmanship of the Homeland Security Committee. In turn, Lieberman is keeping his options open in regards to caucusing with the Republicans

instead¹¹.

Lawsuits over Gay Marriage Ban in California

Same-sex marriages were banned by constitutional amendments in three states on Tuesday: Florida, Arizona and California. However, California was the only state officially recognizing those unions at the time, allowing 18,000 marriages since the state Supreme Court ruled in favor of the unions earlier in the year¹². The campaign around this ban, Proposition 8, was divisive with over \$74 million spent by both sides of the debate, making it the most expensive social-issues campaign in U.S. history.

Opponents of the ban have filed three lawsuits challenging the amendment¹³. They are contesting that this change to the constitution should have been processed through the Legislature, not by voter approval¹⁴. It is also unclear what will happen to the same-sex marriages performed before the ban, so this initiative may be tied up in the courts for quite some time.

Change.gov

12 electoral votes have yet to be decided yet (although Missouri is likely to go to McCain and Nebraska's second district has been called by a few organizations for Obama¹⁵), but the President-elect has already started to set up shop. Obama's team has set up the website change.gov to help people "Better understand the transition process and the decisions being made as part of it"¹⁶. The site outlines Obama's agenda and allows people to share their story and their ideas about the country. It also shows an emphasis on Obama's desire to expand existing service programs in this country and create new ones, such as Classroom Corps, Health Corps, Clean Energy Corps and Veterans Corps. It also contains a claim that students performing 100 hours of community service will receive a "Tax credit ensuring that the first \$4,000 of their college education is completely free"¹⁷.

- 11 <http://www.starttribune.com/politics/34098359.html>
- 12 <http://www.thestar.com/article/531108>
- 13 <http://abcnews.go.com/TheLaw/story?id=6194048&page=1>
- 14 <http://www.law.com/jsp/article.jsp?id=1202425831874&rss=newswire>
- 15 <http://www.ketv.com/news/17934557/detail.html?rss=oma&psp=news>
- 16 <http://politics.slashdot.org/article.pl?sid=08/11/07/1554236&from=rss>
- 17 <http://change.gov/americaserves/>

Letters to the Editor

I know our club sports program is awesome and it deserves credit, but how about some of our actual varsity sports getting some ink. The volleyball team is having an amazing year and so is the football team, yet not much has been written about them. Last year the baseball team went to the RMAC tournament and won it's first post-season game in almost 20 years and again nothing was written. I and pretty much all student athletes are getting sick and tired of hearing about how our club teams are doing when our varsity teams are performing at such a high level. It's one thing to write about club teams when the varsity squads aren't performing, but another when they are. Thanks, Nick Walker

Dear Editors: I want to thank the Oredigger staff for publishing an outstanding campus newspaper. Students are the reason this institution exists, and I am always delighted to have opportunities to interact with our student body. I enjoyed the opportunity to attend the ASCSM meeting on October 23, and I appreciate the professional coverage of that meeting by Oredigger reporter Patrick Beseda. I do want to clarify the enrollment plans mentioned in that article. The School's Strategic Plan, adopted by the Board in 2004, targeted total enrollment goals (undergraduate and graduate) of around 6,000 by 2014. I believe that's the number I mentioned that evening, but it's possible that I may have misspoken. In either case, the goal that was articulated in the 2004 Strategic Plan is 6,000 students. I should also note that, at President Scoggins' request, a faculty committee has been examining the Strategic Plan's goals and I understand the committee will present an update at an upcoming Board meeting. I would also like to elaborate on my statements concerning liberal arts majors at Mines. Our mission, by Colorado statute, is specialized, focusing on engineering and science fields. We don't have the statutory flexibility of the state's larger, more comprehensive universities to offer a broad range of degree options. Still, we are wholeheartedly committed to our liberal arts programs, which provide our students with the knowledge and perspective necessary to succeed as global engineers. Again, I applaud your work in helping create an informed campus community, and thank you for this opportunity to clarify my remarks to ASCSM.

Best regards, Michael Nyikos Chairman, Board of Trustees

Minds at Mines

Election Results

Roby Brost
Staff Writer

As the countdown to Election Day drew near, campaign ads for candidates as well as campaign ads discrediting the other candidate grew from a garden-variety occurrence to a full scale problem of propagation. This past Tuesday, November 4, those campaign ads ceased. The waiting was over. The time had come for the nation to make a decision regarding one of the most important questions of the next four years: who is best suited to lead this country? The nation chose Senator Barack Obama as the President-Elect, but what did Mines students have to say?

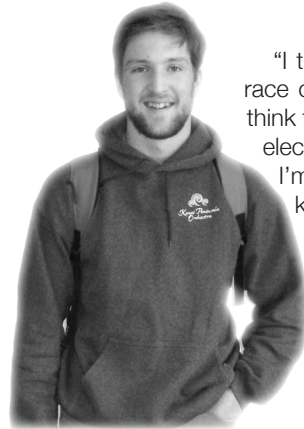
"I'm not a Democrat, but I believe that Barack Obama is a good choice for the nation. He's a smart man and even though I wasn't thrilled with the results of the election, I was still proud that we were able to make history in 2008. I think that a lot of people were inspired, and that there a lot more people who are happy and excited about this choice. That is always a good thing, when people are excited about a choice they have a better attitude. They are proud."

Paul Szuhay



"I think that to some degree, this was really a race of the vice presidential nominees. But I still think that it's really neat that our country is able to elect a black president, it's a real sign of progress. I'm kind of disappointed because his rhetoric is kind of socialist and I don't care for that, but if that's what the country wants then we'll deal with that."

Andrew Bosela



"I think that Obama is a good choice. I think that it's very exciting that as a country we've finally come so far that we can be equal and elect a minority. I know that the loser always is congratulatory, but I hope that people that voted Republican can overcome their loss, because the Democratic Party did, for like eight years!"

Steph Carr



"I was really excited about the majority of the election outcomes. I was excited that Markey, and not Musgrave, won, [and] that Udall, and not Schaffer, won. And amendment 48 [did not pass]. I'm happy that Obama won, mostly because of environmental issues, but also because I really have problems with anti-abortion measures. From a social perspective, I think that Obama is a good choice, because he tends to be a lot more liberal and I think his healthcare plan will enable more people to have access to healthcare."

Kathryn Chinn



"I think that Obama was the right choice because of his stronger foreign policy and his better position on the environment."

Dirk Slottow



Fool's Gold

"Layin' out lines like it's '89"

Mines Little Theater to produce "Cats"

Spring musical to use actual cats in new show

Benjamin M. Weilert
Large Woodland Creature

With the fall productions of *Sly Fox* and *Halfway Up the Tree* coming to a close, Mines Little Theater (MLT) has turned its attention to the matter of the spring musical. As is the custom around this time of year, MLT has announced the name of the musical to be cast at the beginning of next semester.

So, what's in store for spring 2009? Suggestions for the musical have been sent in by members of the group and include such nominations as *The Phantom of the Opera* and *Tomfoolery*, a revue of songs by Tom Lehrer. However, the MLT council decided on a rather controversial musical for their next production.

In a decision that passed by a slight majority, the MLT council has announced that the spring production shall be the Andrew Lloyd Webber musical, *Cats*. This has some of the members of the group concerned. "I have enough trouble learning my lines, the songs and the choreography. Now they're adding on the fact that I'll be in a cat suit! I'm not going to stand for this," remarked concerned thespian, Gus Nottacat.

Fortunately, Gus can rest easy as he won't have to be in a cat suit. The decision to put on "Cats"

was so controversial because the council decided to cast the entire musical with 7-foot tall genetically engineered cats. "We figured that it wouldn't be any harder to get cats to learn lines, songs and choreography once we'd figured out how to get engineers to do it," said lead choreographer, Dan Soff.

The idea of using genetically engineered animals is not new to the members of MLT. Through an ambitious doctorate thesis, bio-engineering student and lover of the theater, known only by the name, Macavity, created a 7-foot tall ground squirrel to act in last spring's production of *Anything Goes*. Macavity commented on his creation, "The best part about [the ground squirrel] was that the audience couldn't tell that he wasn't human. His acting skills were so superb



Squirrel. "Anything goes" isn't an exaggeration.

A dark dilemma

Health at Mines depletes

Janeen Neri
Health Nut

Mines students' vitamin D levels are becoming a rising concern at the Student Health Center (SHC). Said nurse Nancy Goodman, "At first we didn't realize it was a problem because the students with the worst problems don't want to come to the health center. They're like little cave bats!"

Unlike cave bats, however, human beings need some sunlight in order to produce the crucial vitamin D, proven to ward off depression, cancer, bone loss and vampires. It seems that many Mines students simply don't see the light of day. "I first noticed," said freshman Nick Glynwallen, who brought the problem to the attention of the SHC, "when some of the others never seemed to be finished with their homework. The whiteboard on their door always said 'Doing homework, scram, you slacker freak.' So my friends and I decided to take turns watching their doors."

Much to the boys' astonishment, several of their test subjects "Never even went to the

bathroom! We seriously watched one room for 24 straight hours and they never came out! Turns out they weren't in there, but we still informed Student Health."

Student Health soon sprang into action. "I can't believe we've let this grow under our noses," said Goodman, "It's inexcusable." Accordingly, the SHC began offering free vitamins to anyone with a student ID. Unfortunately, this tactic had a fatal flaw.

"No way am I going [to the SHC]!" declared sophomore Lizzy Bailey, "It's practically miles away! I'm taking 21 credits this semester. I don't have that kind of time!"

This kind of response has led the administration to explore other strategies. Dr. James Keenanough, a chemistry professor and a member of the Vitamin D task force, explained, "At first, we thought of offering a 'sunlight seminar' and requiring freshman to take it. This met with resistance from the Society of Caucasian Male Engineers for being discriminatory toward the pale-skinned, so we decided to drop that plan." Disagreements between Dr. Keenanough and

that he blended right into the scene."

Despite being incredibly ambitious, Mines Little Theater is optimistic. A statement from the council gave assurance to its members, "Since the people we would normally cast in the musical will have had their roles filled by monster cats, we'll have them work on tech for the production, building the set, running the lights and cleaning up any messes. Lord knows that they'll also have to break up cat fights, since these 7-foot tall felines are all drama queens." Show dates for *Cats* are slated for the weekends of April 10 and April 17.

Mines cereal convention

Expert panel disaster

Cameron Frisby
Cap'n Crunch Fan

Forget large organized conventions about management, oil reserves and cutting-edge technology; Mines hosted the prestigious Cereal-Con this past Thursday.

With representatives from large cereal tycoons like General Mills, the latest conference to hit the Mines Campus let the engineering department flex its marshmallow-manufacturing muscles. However, the largest event was the outrageously popular mascot panel.

Celebrities such as Count Chocula, Trix the Rabbit, Lucky the Lucky Charms Leprechaun, Captain Crunch, the Cornflakes rooster, Buzz the Cheerios bee and Chip the Cookie Crisp dog willingly gave of their free time to answer common misconceptions

about cereal.

After spending three hours debating the proper method of eating Lucky Charms (marshmallows first or last), a foolhardy student asked Trix the Rabbit a question. "Trix, why don't you just go to King Soopers and buy the cereal instead of trying to steal it from little kids?" Needless to say, our fuzzy friend was not pleased, but his response was simple and elegant. He shot the student in the face.

Excited at a chance to prove themselves, Public Safety leapt into action. Unfortunately, writing too many traffic violations had dulled their skills and they too were shot.

The killing spree only ended when Captain Crunch summoned his huge ship and crushed the unruly rabbit. Next year, Mines will not be hosting the Cereal-Con.

sudoku

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Puzzle by websudoku.com

solution

7	3	8	9	5	2	6	1	4
5	6	1	7	3	4	8	9	2
9	4	2	8	6	1	5	7	3
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4	7	6	2	8	9	3	5	1
8	5	9	3	1	6	4	2	7
3	8	7	4	2	5	1	6	9
2	1	5	6	9	3	7	4	8
6	9	4	1	7	8	2	3	5

Puzzle by websudoku.com